

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings and versions of claims in this application.

Claims 1-36 (Cancelled)

37. (Previously Presented) A footwear lacing system for an article of footwear that includes a tongue area and first and second opposing closure edges comprising:

at least one lace having an end that is provided with threads;

a lace guiding system having a plurality of lace guides affixed to the first and second closure edges for guiding the lace to traverse the tongue area in a plurality of locations to enable tightening of the footwear on the foot of a wearer; and

at least one lace end tightening device affixed to the footwear for accommodating an end portion of the lace to provide for adjustments to the tension of the lace; the tightening device comprising a twist-tightening mechanism for engagement by the user; a threaded member associated the mechanism configured for mating threaded engagement with the end of the lace that has the threads; a structure associated with the threaded member for resisting rotation when not desired; and an end section for mounting to the footwear article;

wherein rotation of the twist-tightening device tightens or loosens the lace to facilitate adapting of the article of footwear to the user's foot.

38. (Previously Presented) The lacing system of claim 37, wherein the structure comprises flattened side portions associated with the twist-tightening mechanism so that the mechanism does not rotate after the user tensions the lace.

39. (Previously Presented) The lacing system of claim 37, wherein the lace end tightening device end section is freely rotatable with respect to the twist tightening mechanism threaded member.

40. (Currently Amended) The lacing system of claim 37 further comprising a plurality of lace end tightening devices ~~are provided~~ so that a plurality of end stations are present, each capable of releasable connection to the lace.

41. (Currently Amended) The lacing system of claim 40 wherein ~~[[the]]~~ the lace is provided along a serpentine path.

Claims 42-50 (Cancelled)

51. (Previously Presented) The lacing system of claim 38, further comprising a protective flap for covering the threaded member of the cable-end tightening mechanism.

52. (Currently Amended) The lacing system of claim 40, wherein a lace is ~~associated~~ associated with each tightening mechanism.

53. (Previously Presented) The lacing system of claim 52, wherein each lace is present in a different portion of the article of footwear so that adjustment capability is provided for two different zones of the footwear.

54. (Previously Presented) The lacing system of claim 53, wherein one zone is near an ankle region of the footwear article and the other is near the foot region.

55. (Previously Presented) The lacing system of claim 54, wherein each zone is associated with the tongue of the article of footwear, with one zone being associated with a top portion of the tongue and the other being associated with a bottom portion of the tongue.

56. (Previously Presented) The lacing system of claim 37 which further comprises two crossing lace channels and at least two adjustable stop bumpers, the stop bumpers configured to contact first and a second opposing closure edges of the footwear article, wherein the tightening mechanism is associated with each of the stop bumpers.

57. (Previously Presented) The lacing system of claim 56, further comprising four adjustable stop bumpers, the stop bumpers configured to contact first and a second opposing closure edges of the footwear article.

58. (Previously Presented) The lacing system of claim 37 wherein the structure includes teeth.

59. (Previously Presented) The lacing system of claim 58 which further comprises an element having an affixing member that includes at least one tooth for releasably meshing with the teeth of the structure to prevent rotational movement.